

界・神尾・加藤源

中原裕



ラストイニング

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中原裕

11 中原裕

小学館

BC3785

BIG COMICS

20 YEARS OLD!?



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小学館

20 YEARS OLD!?



今、明かされる鳩ヶ谷の過去。
彼の野球知識と技術は
いかなる経験の産物か？
大きな謎が明らかに…!!

功は他の選手に譲るべし。

捕手たるものマスを被れば黒子に徹し、

11

BIG SPIRITS COMICS

ラストイニング

私立彩珠学院高校野球部の逆襲

11

中原 裕

原作 神尾 剛 監修 加藤 淳

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私立彩珠学院高校野球部の逆襲

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私立彩珠学院高校野球部の逆襲

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BIG SPIRITS COMICS



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著

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I had you
come today
because
there's
something
I wanted
to confirm.

Chapter 98: Connection to Others



Let's get
straight
to the
point.



Are you
trying to
break off our
relationship?



Eh?





To be honest,
I was
disappointed
To have that
done to me.



He...
Why?



I don't
really get
what you're
trying to
say.



But
personally,
I don't see
them as
being
so bad.

I'm
well aware that
the methods
you've been
employing,
Kiryuu-san, are
coming under
increasing
criticism.





Slender
7



And yet,
I can't believe that
you'd inflict such
slender on another
school trying to
knock them down...



Isn't that
what it is?
I provided that
information to you
because I thought
it would be
valuable to you!



No, I thought
that you'd
be the only
person
who would
understand
its value,
Kiryuu-san



Because I was
sympathetic to such a
person, I handed that
over to you, and yet,
you spread it outside
the club...!

Without
relying only
on the data and
numbers to judge
his baseball, you
would derive into
the manager's
nature itself
and analyze it.



The one
who did it,
wasn't
it you?

Isn't it
nothing
but gossip?
Designed to
bring about
Coach
Hatogaya's
downfall...?



But your resentment
of Hatogaya-kun
caused you to publish
that gossip on the
internet in order to
bring him down...

I don't
know what
happened
between
the two
of you...

En?









I don't
hate him.



This summer,
I definitely want
to fight against
Saigaku again,
and win.



When I look at
Matogaya-kun,
I remember
myself in the past.
Myself when I
was still young
and passionate.







I wonder
if he got
dowped,
that old
man.

Oh boy,
the woman
walked out.















That they would
go to ask the
coach whether
rumors posted
on the internet
are true or not.



*It's all
because
I stirred
it up...!!*





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CMERTB

EDITOR

KAIDE, PANA

PROOFREADER

(SPOT OPEN)

QC'ER

Bearking

SCANNER

SECRET ♪

LOOKING
FOR STAFF.

An illustration of four anime-style girls from behind, looking towards the right. They have different hair colors: dark green, blonde, orange, and dark purple. They are wearing various styles of swimsuits or bikinis. The text is overlaid on the image.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR
JAP. AND CHN TRANSLATORS,
CLEANERS
TYPESETTERS
AND SCANNERS~!

post on our forum or talk to staff on irc.



Chapter 99: The Mothers Are Angry.







Excuse us.
Is Coach
Hibogaya
here?

WAH!!



There's
something
I'd like to
ask you!



Mitsuo-san,
it's been
a while.



Are
you
sure?



Is
everything
that was
posted
on the
internet
true?





A- Anyway,
we can't entrust
our precious
children to
someone so
doubtful!



Is that
how far
they'll
go...?

Dis-
missed!
if

We're
going to
request
your
dismissal!!





I made
a promise to take
them to the Koshien,
and secured the
No. 3 seed position
for the summer
tournament...



That hurts.
I've really
worked hard
all this time



You won't
acknowledge
even that?



Assignment
of
positions?

But that's not the
problem. It's your
management, your
assignment of
positions to the
players...



Of course, we
acknowledge
those
results...



Take the last game,
where you sent out
some weird foreigner
and deepened our
wound even further...
Even though if you let
Kazuo keep pitching,
we would've won...



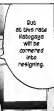
Even if you
go out there,
Principal, it
won't get
settled



*I was
late...!*



If that
happens,
the baseball
club's... no,
even Seigaku's
future will...!



But
at this rate
Katsuge
will be
cornered
into
resigning.



*I thought
I'd catch Katsuko
by the tail, and
deny these
allegations as
stander Virgin
Mary is
spreading
around...*



We have no choice but
pray that he'll manage
to convince them
somehow like he did
with the parents
committee last year!

Still,
let's leave
it up to Coach
Futagaya
here!



Explain?
What?!

But if you'd
at least let
me explain
something...

Basically,
you don't
like anything
about me.

Including
my past...



About my past...
Without leaving
anything out.





Them too.



Assemble
all our
members!!



But those
conditions
for membership?



What are
your
names?



S.S.

S.S.

S.S.

S.S.



Kitamoto
from
class C.

Same
class,
Niza.

Nagomi
from class
1-4.



In that case,
let me give
you your first
assignment
as new club
members.



So of
the ten original
candidates, you
three are the
only ones left.



Reco-
gni-
tion...



THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH!

WE
CAN
JOIN?!



HELLO
!!

HELLO
!!



How
many.

Go buy
tea for
everyone.

Yes?



4,000
yen should
probably
be enough.



*But still,
just how far
that old man
will go in order
to get in my
way!*

*This too is
the result of
that man using
Matsuko to do
this to us...*



*I beg you.
If you resign
now, my plans
for rebuilding
the school will
come to naught
as well.*



聖母學苑高等學校男子部

SHEEN MARY SCARLET HIGH SCHOOL BOYS DIVISION





If it wasn't me,
and it wasn't her,
there's no
one else except
you who had
contact
with that
information.



You were
the one
who delivered
the information
from Iki
Retsudo-kun
to me...



I'm sorry!



I let you work
for me for the sake
of your dream of
becoming a sports
manager or an
agent in the
future...

I had
expectations
of you.



Because Coach Matsuyama came up as a topic on an internet site, I thought I'd given it up a bit more...

It's true that I didn't think much of it when I did it.



But you were still a child. It was my mistake to treat you like an adult.



But I didn't expect for it to become so big...



Especially on the Internet, where there is a lot of anonymity. Irresponsible individuals will spread information further and further, until it's completely out of control.



That's precisely why you need to handle it carefully and discreetly.

The Internet information leaks outside, it accelerates and spreads wider.



You forgot
the feelings
that players
have.

Ah.



BUT ISN'T
IT TRUE
THAT
I WAS
ABLE TO
DAMAGE
SAIGAKU
WITH
THIS?



It seems
you need to
go back to
basics once
more.



Whatever
information
you may use,
the battle
should still
take place
on the field.







-It was 14 years ago.

Alright,
fine of all,
let me tell you
about that
matter.

Saigaku
was tied 2 to 2
at the bottom
of the 9th, and
facing a pinch
with two outs
and bases
loaded.

The quarter
final of
the summer
prefectural
tournament.



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QC'ER

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SCANNER

SECRET ♪

LOOKING
FOR STAFF.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

E-A

TRANSLATORS

JAPANESE, CHINESE, OR FRENCH

EDITORS

KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND PHOTOSHOP
AND WILLING TO DO REDRAWS

QUALITY CHECKERS

NEED EXPERIENCE IN OTHER GROUPS

RAW PROVIDERS

LIVE IN JAPAN, FRANCE, OR
TAIWAN AND HAVE A SCANNER

post on our forum, email us or talk to fleshcut in irc



Chapter 100: Back Then, You

AW-
RIGHT,
IT'S
EXTRA
INNINGS
-!!





BALL!!



14 years
ago, we lost
with a run
walked in
on a full
count...





What's important is not winning or losing, but earnestness as befits high school students.



But I just couldn't accept that judgment....

In today's game, you always let that course be a strike.

POPPO
-!!

















ONE. SECOND!









*Before I knew it,
I started
enjoying this
kind of life.
An event at a
shopping arcade
today, a Shinto
shrine festival
tomorrow, every
day was busy.*

*In unknown
lands, unknown
people tried
my Takoyaki
and said it was
delicious...*



*For someone like me,
who had nothing
but baseball since
childhood and spent
all his time in severe
training even at
Saigaku, those days
were like a long
summer vacation
that visited me for
the first time.*



*That
made me
simply
happy.*



*In the
meantime,
everyone in
Saigaku and
in my town
would
forget
what I'd
done...*

*I was
thinking of
spending
the whole
summer
like that.*













Warabi.



Because I met
a certain
person.



A certain
person?



Mamotani
Juzou!!



It's
the one
you met
in Osaka.



In
Osaka



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Chapter 101: That Man Is My Teacher







Start
From the
conclusion.
Is he a
yakuza?



Let me tell
the story
in the right
order.

If
handcapping
comes up
all of a sudden,
you don't
understand
it, right?



No,
he's
not.



Please keep
listening

...That's
the
conclusion,
but



Where did I leave off...
It was the end of
summer vacation,
the August of 14
years ago.





Alright, do
Kanshin's
Yu-Pune.

Then
who's
next?
Anyone
is okay.

It's
him.

Fool,
Yu-Pune's
a lefty!

Yeah...

But
you said
anyone's
okay.





That's right, you don't have to grill Sakayaku starting today.



A different job?



There's nothing we can do. It's an edict from above.



From above...?



Wait, hold on, good sir, if you take him away...

The big shots said they wanted him to keep handicapping directly, but he said he doesn't want to be out in front...

The partner who was always with "Sensei" found a long-term position of his own.



Because it's just someone to talk to, he said any young fellow will do, but it would be better if he knows even a little about baseball.

So Poppo is to become his successor?



Poppo...







FALL HIGH SCHOOL
BASEBALL TOUR-
NAMENT
OSAKA
PREFECTURE EAST
DIVISION
REGIONAL
PRELIMINARY











That's
a once in
a decade
player,
hun...



THAT'S OUR
SUNNYOSHI!
A ONCE IN
A DECADE
Talent
~~~~~!!

THAT  
WAS A  
GREAT  
HOME  
RUN  
~~~~~!!



If you were the catcher on the opposing team, how would you fight against Sawaguchi as his next as bat?

Ohh, then answer me this.



It does look like he's got the power, but isn't he more like once in three years as most?



...His pitches are a 120 km or so Fastball and a curve with a bad break... His slider is okay-ish.

Given three remaining as bats... Yeah, I'd like one more pitch type.



Right.



With that pitcher?



And if that's impossible?



Run-
ners?



Is it okay
to accompany
runners
before him?



Even with
his fast
home run,
he only
swung
at the
Fastballs
he liked.

Gags like
that, even in
the batter's
box, hit the
pitched thing
like in the way
they like.



Gomigoshi
is a king of
the hit. You
can tell by
his attitude
on the
bench.



So I wouldn't
throw him a
single Fastball
anymore.



Even if it
turns into
a base
on balls as
a result,
so be it.



Instead, I'd
pitch nothing
but Fastballs
along a crappy
course to
the other
batters.



He'll be thinking,
"Why am I
the only one
who doesn't get
the Fastballs
I like?"

Mean-
while,
that guy
will get
piled
off.



So that's
why you're
telling you
might
accumulate
runners.

And in the
end, throw
what looks
like a fastball
from the
arm's
motion...

STRIKE
TWO!!

Get ahead
on the count
with curves
as the main
weapon...

The
slider
!!



I see.



Set him
up for a
grounder
to the
infield.



What if
he says
he wants
to battle it
out with
Pascopais?



But I
wonder,
will the
pitcher be
okay with
that?



Oh?



It's not like
I know that
pitcher's
personality...
After all, I'm
not on their
team.



That
complicates
things





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E-A

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Chapter 102: Young Hatogaya's Days

*And so,
the strange
master-disciple
relationship began
between me and
Momotani Jozou.
And with it, base-
ball entered my
life once again...*



カキーン

*...Having said
that, it
wasn't a big
change com-
pared to my
days as a
takoyaki
seller.*





*Tomorrow-
at that
school...*



*Our days
of going
around to
watch high
school base-
ball games
and training
continued...*



*Instead of
wandering
between
festivals
and various
events, one
day we'd be at
the field of
this school,*



*Only my partner
changed from
an easy-going
nii-chan to
a cranky
old man.*



However,
as I hung
around him,
I began to
realize the
awesomeness
of the man
called Momotani
Juzou more
and more.

キ



It seemed that
inside his head,
all of the 80 year
history of high
school baseball
was stored-



*The predictions
he derived from
that enormous
amount of data,
from the game's
development to
the outcome of
every play, all
of them were
accurate,
with almost
no mistakes.*



Naturally, his
ability to hit
the mark with
even the final
score was
already so
stunning that
it could be
called a
godly skill.





SHUT
UP AND
GO SIT
THERE
QUIETLY!



THAT'S
RIGHT!! I GOT
GOOSEBUMPS
TOO WHEN I
FOUND OUT THAT
MOMOTANI-SAN
PREDICTED THAT
VIRGIN MARY
WOULD LOSE IN
THE SELECTION!!



Who could've
expected
Akashi-kun
to suddenly
falter in
the 7th...?



That's
surpris-
ing at-
right.



Hurt
his
elbow
it



HE PREDICTED
THAT TOO!!
MOMOTANI-SAN
FIGURED OUT
THAT AKASHI
HURT HIS
ELBOW IN
THE PREVIOUS
GAME!!





I always examined them as if they were our opponents, and I kept trying to figure out their brain's holes, as well as points where they excel.

Until then, I didn't look at other people's baseball impartially.

Monotani Juzo taught me many things, but foremost among them was changing my point of view on baseball...



It was something very fresh to me. It was a completely different baseball compared to what I saw through my mask as a player.

But after meeting Monotani Juzo, I started disregarding that for the first time, and just watched baseball objectively.



What's more,
there was a man
who was like a walking
encyclopedia of high
school baseball
next to me.



When you look on
from outside
the field, your
field of view
widens,



And you
develop eyes
that can grasp
the overall
image of
baseball
as a game.



Like a dry
sponge
absorbing
water, I let
all that
baseball
knowledge
seep into
me.





HE MADE
MONEY BY
PREDICTING
GAMES.
ISN'T THAT
BASEBALL
GAMBLING
!!?

I FINALLY
UNDER-
STAND
BASICALLY,
A HANDI-
CAPPER IS
A CRYSTAL
GAZER!!



BUT
ISN'T
HE A
CRIMINAL
!!?



I don't
gamble.
Neither
of us
do.



YOU DID
IT TOO,
DIDN'T
YOU!!?

IF
YOU'RE
HIS PSY-
CHIC,
THEN
YOU'RE
AN AC-
COMPLICE!!



To call
someone
like this
a reserved
catcher
...



ARE
YOU STILL
PRETEND-
ING TO BE
INNOCENT
!!?



Well, certainly, we did
predict the difference
in score between
the winner and the loser.
But in the end, it was
just a conversation.

It's
true.



So you're saying you didn't sell information intentionally?



It's possible that people who heard it put it to some use ...



I KNEW IT, YOU SOLD IT!!

Well, there was some gravity ...



What if you were told by a securities firm trader that a certain brand might rise, but instead the stock crashed? The broker can't be charged with any crime, can he?



Wait, hold on please. Let me explain.





PL. NOTE: ARMY = JET, BIG BROTHER, ALSO AN ADDRESS FOR A FAMILIA GAMES LEADER.





So, my prediction is that Liberty will win by more than 3 runs.



Liberty Academy's victory is assured.

Their ace Moriguchi only allowed two runs in the three games this Fall. Their sense of stability is outstanding, and the batter lineup is in perfect shape.

Seiryo-Mya, on the other hand, doesn't have any explosive power in its lineup.



Moriguchi won't be pitching. He is injured. Of course, they want him to play in the Kinki tournament, but they probably won't force him to pitch now.



That's only if Liberty puts out 100% of their power, isn't it?



But they won't?





The important
thing is that
because one
doesn't go all out,
the other one
won't go either.
Think carefully
about that
difference.



If they're
both at
100% of their
strength,
then Liberty
is stronger...
But without
their ace...



That's
precisely why
Shiranawa
might actually
come out
with their
main force

Oh,
and the
reason
for that
...?











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Chapter 103: The Beginning of Data Baseball



AW-RIGHT,
LET'S GO
WITH A
BREAKING
PITCH
NEXT!?

Chapter 103:
The Beginning of Data Baseball

Aren't the
catcher...
I think he's
good, but...



I'm
different
now when
I was a
player.



Don't be
so cold.
Aren't we
paid?

Isn't this
enough? I
can't have
coldness
stay for
so long...



**I'M A
COACH
!!**





THIS IS A
DIFFERENT
ERA.
PLEASE
LEAVE
ALREADY
!!



There were
no such
rules in
the past,
were there?



I LET YOU
IN BECAUSE
IT'S YOU,
HOMOTANI-SAN,
BUT IN REALITY
OUTSIDERS ARE
AGAINST THE
RULES!



The purpose
was to collect
information
in order to
analyze their
strength, and
that man had
the personal
connections
and so put it off.

Homotani Juroku
taught me how to
look at baseball
from the outside,
and in exchange
he made me go
into the bullpen
of powerful
schools and
catch real
pitches of their
aces.



Because
of that, I was
able to catch
the pitches of
the best players
of the time in
the Kyoto-
Osaka-Kobe
region.



But
gradually,
it became
harder and
harder
to do...





Obviously, isn't it...?

Hitting isn't permitted, that's...



do you only caught the pitches of high school students?



From the mid-80s, in every school they started saying harsh things like how outsiders aren't permitted, how hitting the students isn't permitted...



Not only. The real McCoy...



Adults? do then...



Sometimes, he even had me catch for non-pro pitchers.

Naomasa Ouzen's connections were amazingly extensive.





WHY DID
HE HAVE
YOU CATCH
FOR SUCH
AMAZING
PITCHERS
IT



No way,
it was
...IT



That form had an
astorishing drop
of 50 cm...





I'D LIKE
TO ASK
ABOUT THAT
MOMOTANI-
SAN WHO
HAD SUCH
EXTENSIVE
CONNECTIONS!



Didn't he
just want
me to learn
by getting
a glimpse of
what famous
catchers
see?

I wonder?
Maybe he just
liked me.

Not in a
naïve sense



I mean
...

TL NOTE: OCCHAN = A FAMILIAR WAY TO ADDRESS AN OLDER MAN



Do you
know...
Kiwachi
South Uni-
versity?

OCCHAN,
DID YOU
GO TO
COLLEGE
!?!



I was
surprised
too, so I
asked him
the same
thing.



In the spring of the second year, I became a starter, and since then our team's ERA was in the 2's...

But we were in the second division.



No, not really...



I was called a *Famous* catcher in the South Osaka Student League.



Because you were good at mixing pitches, right?



Our batting lineup couldn't even score three runs.

Ouch.



Then why didn't you rise up to the first division?



...Do you understand why I was called a *Famous* catcher?



I played the so-called data baseball.

Because I would study the batters' habits, outsmart them with the pitches they aimed for, grasp the affinity with the pitcher, the movements on the bench, everything, and then cover up with the best strategy...



But, no matter what they said, I concentrated on the data in order to win. And I produced real results.



We're talking about the 40s of the Showa era. Back then, there wasn't a single person who even used the word "data" in student baseball.

But isn't that what everyone does?



It was the time when those who would outsmart the opponents were called cowards.



High school
baseball.

But there was
almost no road to
the pros or even
a corporate team.
From the second
division. That's
when I set
my eyes on...

After
I graduated
from college,
I wanted
to take
this method
to the
extreme.



Naturally,
there was a
shortage of
instructors
as well.

That time was an
era of bitter rivalry
in Osaka. Led by
seven or eight
powerful private
academies, many
schools competed
ruthlessly to go
to the Koshien.







They
made
you the
head
coach?



That's why
a school that
just couldn't
move forward
would have big
expectations
of me and
take me in.



No, an
assistant.



None
like,
please.

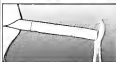


If the team won,
it would make me
even happier.
Because I wanted
to prove that my
way of thinking
was correct.

But whatever
my position
was, I was
happy at
being able
to put my
theory into
practice.



未子





In the end,
as long as they
understood the
know-how, they
didn't need me
anymore, and
so they would
choose me out.

At of a
sudden, all the
achievements
of data
baseball
became the
coach's.



They were all
thinking that
a baseball club
allowed in the
role of the coach
simply protected
their tradition
by winning.

An
outsider
is only a
helper.



WHAT
THE HELL!!
DIDN'T
YOU
OBJECT
!!?



It was
useless
even if
you did.





Right... It was
Mid-60's when
Mamotani Juzou
pounded data
baseball into
the high school
baseball scene...
The 70's were
when he got dis-
couraged...

For the span of
approximately 10
years, the power
scene in Osaka was
reshuffled with PL
rising to the top.



When did
the PL
Academy
advance
to the
Final in the
Koshien?

Oh?



It was
1970.



I believe that the reason
a team that assembled
powerful athletes and
played baseball rationally
was able to break out was
because the data baseball,
that Mamotani Juzou
introduced, became
generally accepted.



Ironically, together with the general acceptance of data baseball, the number of schools that required his know-how shrunk, and his dream of becoming an instructor was shattered...



I didn't hear about that progression from him directly, but ...I suppose that's how it worked out.



And that's his story, right?

In the end, in order to utilize that knowledge, he became a baseball handicapper ...



I see... That's how it was.







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Chapter 104: Cat Fight!?



Mr. Coach's
story is
interesting.
Isn't it?



I'm worried
about the
time... But
since we've
listened this
far...



But I have to
make dinner
too...



I thought
I always
ate mom's
home-cooked
meals.



...DO
YOU MEAN
THIS SORT
OF THING
HAPPENS
OFTEN?



True,
men don't
understand
if it's home-
cooked
or not
anyway.



Although
I could just
buy something
at the super-
market on
the way
home...





The
atmosphere
has changed
here...

Only at times
like these I'm
grateful for
his past
experience
as a cheating
salesman.



Chapter 104: Cat Fight!?



Anyway,
it seemed he
managed to
get through
at this time
as well.



Although
that itself
is the
problem
to begin
with...



!!











Isn't



You've deceived him, but not me.



I heard that you came to apologize to Hatogaya. But I don't believe you.



But it's true that you sold information on Saigaku to Virgin Mary, isn't it?



Are you still saying I wrote all that on the net?





Then
it's true
that you
handed
it over,
right?/
You're
a spy!



I DIDN'T
TAKE ANY
MONEY!!



I WASN'T
LOOKING
FOR ANY
SAIGAKU'S
SECRETS ON
PURPOSE!!
I'M NOT
A SPY!!

I ONLY
TALKED
ABOUT
WHAT
I FOUND
OUT TO
COACH
KIRYUU!!



What
are you
after?
Why did
you tell
him?



...
It's so my
work goes
smoothly.

IN THAT
CASE WHY
DON'T
YOU
GIVE US
INFORM-
ATION ON
VIRGIN
MARY!!!?



Because you
come to us
for business
as well.







The fact that you have your mother's family name means that you can't forgive your father...That's what I thought.

Since your family name is different, your parents must be divorced.



Katagaya-san doesn't want any of that either...



What did that man want?



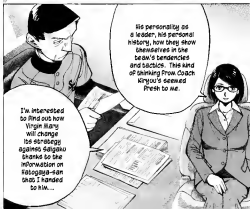
Whatever I might know, Coach Katagaya knows all that as well. It's not that I won't tell you, it's that I have nothing to tell.

The Virgin Mary Academy is a strong school marked by both other schools and the media. There are many sources of information.



Rather than
Sagaku data,
he was more
interested
in Coach
Hategaya
Himself.

He wanted
all sorts
of criminal
details...



His personality as
a leader, his personal
history, how they show
themselves in the
team's tendencies
and tactics. This kind
of thinking Frow Coach
Kiryuu's seemed
fresh to me.

I'm interested to
find out how
Virgin Mary
will change
its strategy
against Sagaku
thanks to the
information on
Hategaya-san
that I handed
to him...

As far as I know,
there's no other
coach who values
information so
highly. That's
why I...



HE CAN ONLY
THINK OF
THINGS THAT
CONNECT TO
BASEBALL!!

IT'S
NOTHING
BUT
BASEBALL
OBSES-
SION!!



Isn't it you
who should
open her eyes,
Nisaka-san?



If you
get involved
with a guy
like that,
he'll just
use you.

Open
your eyes
already.









I want to use
the connections
I'm cultivating
now at work,
support young
talented baseball
players, and open
a path to the pros
on the majors.



.....

Even if I'm a woman...
I want to be a source
of help for kids who
want jobs connected
with their beloved
baseball.



Even if
I can't
become
a pro
myself?



Here's
another
one... A
baseball
kid.



And then, the
baseball population
will grow, and
even more people
will discover
the wonder of
baseball...









I got goosebumps
from hearing how
they called the
outcome of every
game right in
one summer
tournament.



There
were lots of
interesting
stories while
you were out,
Mutsu-san.

It's
too
bad.



I've got
plenty
more.



Really. It's
unfortunate
indeed.



Don't
worry.



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By that summer,
I had earned
an enormous
amount of trust
from Momotani
Junzou, and
we would even
split up the work
of analyzing
the relative
strengths of the
participants
before their
tournaments.

Because
West Tokyo
or Kanagawa
are too
obvious.

Chapter 105: The Summer Of Parting





Wouldn't it be nice
if we could
become
bookies
soon?

There's no one else
in this business
who records such
elaborate data.
It's natural for
everyone to highly
anticipate your
predictions,
Oochan.



If we open up
a parlor and
bypass the
family, we
could make
loads.



Sh?



If I were
in your
shoes,
Oochan
...





FIND OUT
ON YOUR
OWN!!



When do they
have to, that
practice
game?



*That was
the last I saw
of Momotani
Joujou.*



Yeah
yeah,
I got
it.

GO
AL-
READY
!!

Tee-
he-he-he-
he.











When I think back on the three years since I met you, every day was filled with joy. To me, you were a capable assistant and someone I could think of as my son. Before I knew it, I started relying on you.





I was thinking of continuing to
work with you in the future.
So well, but if we continue to
stay together, you will surely
stray from the right path. It's
something I can never allow to
happen to a young man who
thinks his whole life ahead of
him.



If I told you to
leave, I'm sure
you wouldn't listen.
That's why I'll be
the one to leave.
Forget about me
starting today
and return to
decent living.







That was poor
first employer,
Kotogaga-san
...?

Right. The
company that
attributed
English con-
versation ma-
terials.

At the end
of the letter
he wrote down
the address
of a certain
company. If I
visited there,
I could land
a job...



Now all of
Kotogaga-
san's past
is in my
grasp...

It con-
nected
...



What
was
it...?

There was
something else
appended to the
letter. It serves
as an inspiration
to me even now.





First,
the catcher is
the team's pivot.
He sets an example
for others by taking
up jobs that other
people hate.



The
catcher's
three
rules-



Second,
as the only one
in the field to face
the opposite way,
he works hard not
only to perceive
the surface,
but also the
background.





Third, once
the one fit to be
the catcher
done the work, he
dedicated himself
to controlling from
behind the scenes
and conveying
accumulated
experience to the
other players.







YES, THERE IS, LIKE PLAYING FAVORITES!!







IS THAT
RIGHT,
EVERYONE
!!?



Every-
one?



EVERY
BASE-
BALL
CLUB
MEMBER
!!

SFX: YEAH









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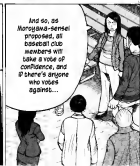
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EDITORS KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND PHOTOSHOP

QUALITY CHECKERS NEED EXPERIENCE IN OTHER GROUPS



Chapter 106: Case Closed!?







Actually, it was during the training camp in Okinawa... he was dropped from the regulars, and then he stopped coming to practice...



Dis-
tinctly
it



YOU,
DON'T
TELL
ME!!



I'M
VERY
SORRY
!!





STAGE...



I don't
know
about
that!



What about
him punching
an umpire, or
learning baseball
from a suspicious
man in Osaka?



I knew it...
She found
out that I
told every-
thing to
Kazuma-
san.



PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME!!



But it was me
who dragged
the baseball club
into this mess.





Well said...
Thank you.



Coach...



**This is
true
education
!!**





PLEASE
LET ME
CONTINUE
TO PLAY
BASEBALL!!



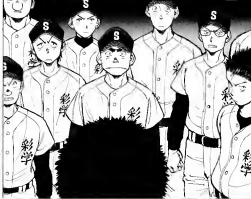
Did you
come here
just to
apologize
to me?



It's not
just me,
right?



IF YOU FORGIVE
ME, COACH,
AND LET ME
COME BACK TO
THE CLUB....





Everyone
unanimously
accepts
Kame-
Fukuda
back.



Let's go to
the Koshien
together.



Please
teach
me more
stuff.



Obviously,
everyone's
unanimous.

Welcome
back,
Kame-
Fukuda-
sensei.

Will he even
come? He's a
big guy, but
he doesn't
stand out.



NO
OB-JEC-
TIONS!!



Another
thing, the
confidence
in me as the
coach.



All of a sudden,
the main topic
switched to whether
Kawifukuoka-kun
should be allowed
to return.



I'm so
glad.



As
expected
from the
schemer...
he's really
sneaking



If you skip
one day of
practice, you
need three to
make it up.



Kawifukuoka.

WELL
YES.



You've
skipped
three weeks.
Do you
understand
what it
means?









It's true
that I said
I'd do any-
thing, but...



Today,
it's where
the first
pitch goes
and the
result
of that.



Just how many of
them are there...
down! What did he
tell us to find out
by watching all
these videos?



At this
rate my
body will
grow even
weaker.



Naturally.
It's what
the coach
told us.

By today, you
won't do
this every day
from now on!







That's
precisely
why it's
doubtful!

Y-You
mean what
Hibogaya-san
told us
yesterday?
But everyone
was moved
to tears...



I can't
trust
that!!



And his
relationship
with that man
Nowotari he
talked about...



We still
don't know
who wrote
all that
on the
internet

It's true
that he was
able to get
out of a pinch
thanks to
his skill with
words, but
fundamentally
nothing has
changed!









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QC'ER

Bearking

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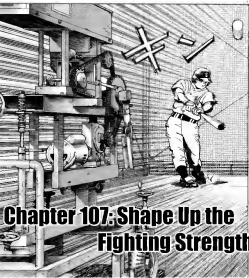
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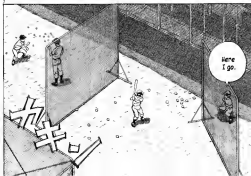
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Chapter 107: Shape Up the Fighting Strength

























YEAH,
GOOP
PITCH!!







Da?

Waka-san's
got his
beeper
up.



Ohhh.



Well, he's eager
to figure out
anything, that
maki-san.



Heck,
that's our
manager.

I don't
record
everyone's
data just
for show.



When he
forcefully
puts the ball
out the line,
it means
he's in a bad
mood.



STEVE'S
PITCHES
HAVE
BECOME
FAST!!



COACH
!!



Test











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